



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,741	05/04/2007	James A. Euchner	F-683-O1	8708
919	7590	02/18/2010	EXAMINER	
PITNEY BOWES INC. 35 WATERVIEW DRIVE MSC 26-22 SHELTON, CT 06484-3000			BAYOU, YONAS A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	2434		
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
02/18/2010	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

iptl@pb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/582,741	EUCHNER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	YONAS BAYOU	2434

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 6 and 7 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2007 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/US/06)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicant's response filed on 11/19/2009.
2. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are pending.
3. Claim 5 is cancelled.
4. Claims 1, 6 and 7 are amended.
5. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
6. Examiner withdraws rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C 101 due to correction by the applicant.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant, on page 6, second paragraph, of the remarks, argues "Pintsov does not teach using an image of the address block."

Examiner respectfully disagrees and asserts that Pintsov discloses a method of verifying a postal indicium (equates mail item) comprising the steps of: (a) scanning the indicium to obtain indicium information (equates digital image) including a global digital token and a pivotal address character; (b) scanning at least a portion of address block to obtain address block information (equates an image of the address block); (c) computing a global digital token from the indicium information; (d) comparing the computed global digital token to the scanned global digital token to verify integrity and authenticity of the indicium; (e) employing the scanned local digital token to obtain a

pivotal address character from the address block information; and (f) comparing the scanned pivotal address character with the address block pivotal address character to verify the validity of the indicium **[para. 3:50 – 4:5]**.

2. Examiner, however, in light of the above submission maintains the previous rejections while considering the amendments to the claims as follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pintsov, Patent Number: 6,125,357 (hereinafter Pintsov).

Referring to claims 1 and 6, Pintsov teaches a method for verifying a digital postage mark, the method comprising the steps of:

scanning a mail item with an optical scanning device to obtain a digital image of the mail item, the mail item including a digital postage mark and a destination address block **[3:61-63; indicium equates mail item/a digital postage mark and a destination address block and see 4:18-24 for detail of postal indicium]**;

parsing with a processor, the digital image to obtain a digital postage mark area and a destination address block area [**4:12-14**; digital image equates indicium];

generating with the processor, a first address block image digest using the digital image of the destination address block area [**fig. 1**, in item 12; see “238” equates a first address block image];

retrieving a second address block image digest from the digital postage mark area [**4:27-28**; calculating a local digital token equate a second address block image];

comparing with the processor the first address block image digest to the second address block image digest [**8:31-33 and fig. 3, see item 56**]; and

accepting the mail item when the comparison of the first address block image digest to the second address block image digest is within a predetermined threshold [**8:33-36 and fig. 3**].

Referring to claims 2 and 7, Pintsov teaches the step of:

rejecting the mail item when the comparison of the first address block image digest to the second address block image digest is beyond a predetermined threshold [**8:34-36**].

Referring to claim 3, Pintsov teaches, wherein the second address block image digest is in a cryptographic validation code in the digital postage mark area [**4:27-28**; calculated/computed a local digital token equates CVC].

Referring to claim 4, Pintsov teaches the steps of:

generating an address block image digest using a first portion of a destination address block of the mail item [fig. 1, in item 12; see “238” equates a first address block image];

using the address block image digest as a recoverable portion of a cryptographic validation code [4:27-28; calculated/computed a local digital token equates CVC];

formatting the recoverable portion of a cryptographic validation code with other postal data for digital postage mark information computation [5:1-6, 7:10-23 and fig. 2]; and

printing the digital postage mark information on one of the mail item, label or tag [abstract, fig. 2, at 47].

Conclusion

1. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YONAS BAYOU whose telephone number is (571)272-7610. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f,7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on 571-272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yonas Bayou/

Examiner, Art Unit 2434

02/01/2010

/Kambiz Zand/

Application/Control Number: 10/582,741

Art Unit: 2434

Page 7

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2434